

Blues meet possible F.A. Cup opponents

WYCOMBE WANDERERS stage their final pre-season friendly at Loakes Park tomorrow (Saturday) when they entertain Witney Town. The match, although only a "warm up" before the season starts in earnest next Saturday, will have a special significance, as these two clubs could well meet in the qualifying rounds of this year's F.A. Cup.

In the Cup, Wycombe have been drawn away to the winners of the Aylesbury United or Marlow clash. If they are successful, they go through to meet either Wolverton or Milton Keynes. Witney have been drawn away to old rivals Oxford City and if they beat them and the winners of the Chesham v Vauxhall Motors tie, they will be at home to Wycombe.

Witney were the leading club in the Hellenic League for several seasons and after topping the premier division two years running, they decided to join the Southern League last term. In their first season they finished a creditable sixth in Division One North.

Town will be trying out one or two new players tomorrow but one man who will be familiar to Wycombe fans is full back Chris Austin, who spent a short spell at Loakes Park. Several of their players have represented Oxford City in the past, among them Trevor Stokes, a solid centre half, and Andy Sinnott, a front runner and Oxford's top scorer last term.

TOP MARKSMAN

John Shufflebottom is another ex-City player and he will partner Stokes at centre back. In midfield, Witney are likely to play Dave Freeman, a new signing from Clanfield. Upfront they have Ray Ball,

who was top goalscorer for Oxford United reserves for two seasons and Brian Thomas, the club's top marksman last term with 18 league goals. Thomas has also represented F.A. Amateur XIs.

Witney are managed by Tony Jones, a former player with Birmingham and Oxford United. He was a regular member of last year's team.

This will be Witney's third friendly. Last Saturday they went down to Southern League Premier division side Kettering 1-0 but they hit four goals against Abingdon Town at Abingdon in midweek. Sinnott, Haggis, Jones and Ray Ball (penalty) were their scorers.